

ONE of those innumerable little books that come to us from the old country filling us with amazement at the condescension of the great men who write them and with wonder at who the readers may be. Readers they must have unless publication is cheaper in England than it is here or so small a fragment of literature could never have existed to a ninth edition. This book is like many others that have crossed the ocean to us—a few words on many subjects. Directions for obsolete poultices, and cooking receipts, and a glossary, mammoth in proportion to the rest of the book. Though never used in class teaching in this country, this kind of small, handy volume has many patrons.

A MANUAL OF PERSONAL HYGIENE, PROPER LIVING UPON A PHYSIOLOGIC BASIS. By American Authors. Edited by Walter L. Pyle, A.M., M.D., Member of the American Ophthalmological Society; Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Fellow of the American Academy of Medicine; Assistant Surgeon to the Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, etc. Third Edition; 12 mo. of 451 pages; illustrated. Price, \$1.50 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

THE plan of this book which is written in eight chapters, each one by a different author, who is a specialist in the line of his subject, of indisputable authority, might in some hands prove disjointed and uneven reading. Dr. Pyle and his collaborators, however, work together so harmoniously that the reader hardly notices the changes that succeed each other in the book as one subject after another is taken up by its respective author. If there is a want in the book it is a chapter all to itself on general hygiene. The editor's introductory in a measure fills this lack, but in the reviewer's opinion the subject would bear amplification. True each author has something to say respecting general hygiene, eating, drinking, bathing, sleeping, exercise, but each speaks from his own standpoint rather than from a general basis. Charles G. Stocton, M.D., of Buffalo, writes of "Hygiene of the Digestive Apparatus;" George H. Fox, M.D., New York, of the "Hygiene of the Skin and Its Appendages;" E. Fletcher Ingalls, M.D., of Chicago, "Hygiene of the Vocal and Respiratory Apparatus;" Alex. Randall, M.D., of Philadelphia, "Hygiene of the Ear;" Walter Pyle, M.D., of Philadelphia, "Hygiene of the Eye;" T. W. Courtney, M.D., of Boston, "Hygiene of the Brain and Nervous System;" G. N. Stewart, M.D., of Chicago, "Physical Exercise," and D. H. Bergey, M.D., of Philadelphia, on "Domestic Hygiene." This last chapter is mainly devoted to the con-

ditions that make for sanitary living places, rather than rules and principles for sanitary living to be practiced by the inhabitants thereof. The subject includes construction and location of living places—ventilation, heating, draining, plumbing, disposal of garbage, nuisances, housecleaning, and food and dietetics, with a very brief mention of the causes and transmission of communicable diseases. Without going further into the book one sees how much ground remains uncovered and wishes that Dr. Pyle had enlarged the third edition of this admirable book along general lines rather than by the appendix which contains some familiar matter on temperature, pulse, respiration, baths, massage, emergencies, etc.

In the introduction to the book Dr. Pyle dwells at some length on the need of educating the public on hygienic subjects, deploring the ever-increasing army of neurasthenic invalids, not to mention others, who are the victims of their own ignorance and the blind followers of guides as ignorant as themselves of hygienic principles.

“Men and women who would be greatly chagrined to be corrected in the pronunciation of a popular foreign proper name or who would resent as an insult any imputation as to their lack of general culture or learning, show not the slightest embarrassment at their ignorance of the common physiologic functions of digestion, circulation, respiration, etc. Persons of intelligence continually furnish thoughtless recommendations of purely “quack” remedies and unscientific instruments and apparatus; and advertisements of these articles may be seen in the best general and religious periodicals.”

We are all ready to endorse Dr. Pyle, and we know only too well how many difficulties this popular ignorance adds to the already difficult path of the nurse who is forever engaged in rallying to her aid, tact and ingenuity, to combat and conquer the perverted idea of hygiene which continues to sway the general mind of the public.

